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Message Text

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41
ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12

TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 IO-12 OIC-04 AEC-11 ACDA-19

OMB-01 RSR-01 /153 W
---------- 016140
O R 091635 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1265
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 2137

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, NL
SUBJECT: DUTCH REACTION TO PAPER ON U. S. APPROACH
TO MBFR

REFS: A. USNATO 2129
B. USNATO 2127

SUMMARY: MFA OFFICER (VAN VLOTEN) WENT OVER WITH EMBOFF
ON MAY 9, MFA INSTRUCTION SENT TO AMB. SPIERENBURG FOR
MAY 10 NAC MEETING ON US PAPER. SINCE NEW GOVT ON POINT OF
TAKING OFFICE, VAN VLOTEN SAID SPIERENBURG' S COMMENTS WOULD
ONLY BE PRELIMINARY AND MORE DETAILED AND DEFINITIVE COMMENTS
WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW LATER. VAN VLOTEN THOUGHT US PAPER WAS
EXCELLENT STARTING POINT FOR FORMULATION OF ALLIANCE POSITIONS FOR
NEGOTIATIONS AND ATTACHED PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO US CONFIRMA-
SECRET

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TION OF VALIDITY OF EXISTING FLEXIBLE RESPONSE STRATEGY.

END SUMMARY.

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1. VAN VLOTEN, ONE OF PRINCIPLE MBFR SPECIALISTS IN MFA NATO/ WEU DIVISION, PROVIDED US WITH FOLLOWING SUMMARY COMMENTS, WHICH HE SAID WERE MAIN POINTS INCLUDED IN INSTRUCTION SENT TO AMB. SPIERENBURG FOR MAY 10 NAC MEETING. VAN VLOTEN SAID US PAPER PROVIDED EXCELLENT STRATING POINT FOR ALLIANCE DISCUSSION LEADING UP TO NEGOTIATIONS THIS FALL AND PRESENTED ALL OF MAJOR OPTIONS IN REALISTIC AND CONCRETE FORM. HE SAID DUTCH ATTACH PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO US STATEMENT CONFIRMING VALIDITY OF EXISTING FLEXIBLE RESPONSE STRATEGY , PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF STATEMENTS ON TACNUCS MADE BY FORMER DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY PACKARD AT MARCH 26-28 EUROPE- AMERICA CONFERENCE IN AMSTERDAM.

2. VAN VLOTEN SAID GON LIKES IDEA OF SETTING TEN PERCENT LIMIT ON ALLIED MANPOWER REDUCTIONS. ON THREE OPTIONS, DUTCH FOR PRESENT HAVE NO PREFERENCE FOR ANY SINGLE ONE AND ARE INSTEAD INCLINED TO FAVOR MIXTURE OF THREE OPTIONS. VAN VLOTEN SAID THAT LANGUAGE IN MIXED PACKAGE OPTION SUGGESTED THAT US ALSO HELD THAT POSSIBILITY OPEN. VAN VLOTEN WAS PLEASED WITH TREATMENT GIVEN TACNUCS UNDER OPTION THREE AND SAID IT MIGHT BE ATTRACTIVE FOR ALLIES TO OFFER REDUCTION (BUT NOT ELIMINATION, HE EMPHASIZED) OF TACNUCS, WHERE NATO HAS ADVANTAGE, FOR SOVIET REDUCTIONS IN AREAS OF INTEREST TO ALLIES. FURTHER ON OPTION THREE, VAN VLOTEN EXPRESSED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR CONCENTRATION ON GROUND FORCES.

3. VAN VLOTEN SAID DUTCH SHARE US RESERVATIONS ON FORCE LIMITATION AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF DANGER IT ENTAILS OF GIVING SOVIETS " DROIT DE REGARD" OVER NATO FORCES. VAN VLOTEN SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE DECLARATION OF MBFR PRINCIPLES INCLUDED IN NEGOTIATIONS. ONE OF PRINCIPAL PROBLEM AREAS ENCOUNTERED BY DUTCH IS US DATA BASE ON PACT FORCES, WHICH VAN VLOTEN SAID DIFFERED SIGNIFICANTLY IN SOME INSTANCES FROM NATO- AGREED FIGURES. DUTCH ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF TOO PRECISE DEFINITION OF " INDIGENOUS FORCES." DEFINITION SHOULD NOT AFFECT FLEXIBILITY OF EUROPEAN ALLIES TO MAKE CHANGES IN THEIR FORCES, E. G. INCREASING SIZE OF

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DUTCH BRIGADE IN FRG. VAN VLOTEN FAVORED SOMETHING ALONG LINES OF " US/ NON- US" DISTINCTION BEING MADE ON NATO SIDE BETWEEN STATIONED AND INDIGENOUS FORCES.
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TAGS: PARM, NATO, NL
To: STATE
NATO INFO BRUSSELS
BONN
VIENNA
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